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ANDORRA

ELEVEN REPORTED MENINGITIS CASES UNDER CONTROL

Eleven Cases

Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 9 Jun 79 p 26

Article by Gualberto Ossorio

Text Eleven cases of meningitis have been found in Andorra although, fortunately, according to a statement made by the head of the public health department of the principality, the situation is under control and the danger of contagion is minimal.

In a communique made public by the General Council, these meningitis cases were found among the pupils of the special school Our Lady of Meritxell when the children were on holiday. Some of them were immediately hospitalized and the remainder sent back to the principality where, once the authorities were advised, they were placed in local clinics.

Late yesterday afternoon, Andorra's public health director declared that so far, all the tests proved negative and that if things followed this pattern, the children could return home today.

On the other hand, according to today's edition of the weekly POBLE ANDORRA, another child in no way related to those of the above-mentioned case, died last Tuesday in the Seu d'Urgel Hospital, a victim of meningitis. The child, who lived in Andorra, attended a day care center in Old Andorra. Hence, once the public health authorities of Andorra became aware of the situation, they called in the parents of the other children at the center to give them the necessary instructions. At the present time, according to sources at the public health office, there is no cause for alarm, since the situation has been carefully controlled in each case and at the moment, the danger is minimal.

Additional Details

Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 17 Jun 79 p 29

Article by Gualberto Ossorio

Text The General Council of Valls, through the Public Health and Sanitary Board and the Public Health and Social Service for Schoolchildren

after contacting all the pediatricians working in Andorra, and by mutual agreement with all of these groups, has published the terms of a note addressed to the parents of all schoolchildren in the principality, in which they are advised of the following: "That the cases of meningitis observed lately are not a unique feature of Andorra but rather are the result of a clinical cycle in Europe, one which occurs at intervals of 8 to 10 years, and which is affected by climatological conditions." It should also be added, according to the above-mentioned noted, that the severity of the epidemic in Andorra is regarded as average and that the number of cases remains at a statistically low level, bearing in mind the number of cases recorded in neighboring countries. The measures taken to prevent an epidemic are exactly the same as those adopted by the WHO.

The note likewise calls on the local inhabitants to remain calm and at the same time advises all parents not to take any particular measure on their own account without first consulting the family doctor. The communication ends by stating that if the situation were more serious, measures would be taken forthwith if they were considered necessary.

7129
CSO: 5400

ARGENTINA

'LA NACION' DEPLORES DEATH OF LATEST RABIES VICTIM

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 1 Jul 79 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text] It was only a small bite on a finger. The little aggressor, a mongrel dog which up to that time was calm and playful, became extremely irritable. A son of the person attacked, the father of four other children, had just suffered a ~~s~~ scratch. The man, a resident of the Buenos Aires city of Zarate, decided to kill the animal believing that this would solve the problem. He did not know that in his young body--he was 26--a terrible enemy was about to begin its destructive and lethal work. When some time later the first symptoms appeared--persistent fever, weakness and loss of appetite--a physician, warned of the danger, ordered his urgent transfer to the Muniz Hospital where he underwent energetic although regrettably late treatment. The patient presented a dark picture: obstruction in the throat, fear of water and light, convulsions and hallucinations. The only thing that could be done was to try to ease the painful process of the end, which was not far away.

Unfortunately, this is not an isolated case. With painful frequency reports reveal similar episodes of neglect: persons bitten by rabid dogs who are being sought to have them begin the life-saving treatment; others who inexplicably suspend the treatment after having started it; and not a few who do not pay attention to the bite of a domestic animal and whose apprehensions--if any--are covered by affection for the aggressor and fear that he could be killed if submitted to analysis, a thing that could not happen if the dog is not rabid.

All this, of course, is due to ignorance, helped by lack of adequate planning in the permanent and systematic struggle against the spread of the illness until its eradication is achieved, as has been the case in other civilized countries.

Of course, it is not by measures as alien to science as the massive extermination of dogs and cats that the eradication of this terrible disease is achieved. As in the fights against other types of plagues, the most suitable means is to be found in educating the people, preferably from childhood on.

If we take into account that the main agent of hydrophobia is the victim and not the producer of the disease, it is clear where the measures entrusted to responsible organizations should lead, and what care is to be given in the home to canine guests.

With a feeling of collective responsibility, the fulfillment of a duly organized prophylactic plan, massive arabies vaccination, sterilization when suitable, application of sanctions to those who criminally abandon a domestic animal, and adoption of other preventive measures according to circumstances, hydrophobia, like smallpox and perhaps very soon tuberculosis, could in a not too distant future be inscribed in Argentine history books as an eradicated plague.

11635
CSO: 5400

MEASLES VACCINATION CAMPAIGN BEGINS

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 30 Jun 79 p 4

[Text] The national measles vaccination campaign of the year will begin between the day after tomorrow and 12 July. The campaign, carried out through the Epidemiologic Vigilance Department will be under the jurisdiction of the National Promotion and Protection board, which operates under the Undersecretariat of Sanitary Medicine.

The present situation of measles in our country in 1978 showed the results of the epidemiological impact produced by the last 3 years of intensive vaccination against this disease. The 9,500 cases reported that year was the lowest in Argentina since statistics on measles have been kept.

Downward Trend

The Undersecretariat of Sanitary Medicine pointed out that if the rhythm achieved is maintained in the regular programs and vaccination campaigns and the coverage is improved, especially for children under 3--where the highest figure of susceptible individuals and the most serious cases are registered--it is possible to predict that the downward trend of this illness will be more pronounced and that in the coming years the annual incidence could be reduced 50 percent below the levels already reached.

To attain this goal, during this year the purchase of 3 million doses of measles vaccine was ordered. In the campaign that will begin the day after tomorrow, all children between 9 months and 3 years of age, who have not had measles and have not been vaccinated previously, will be vaccinated free of charge. All health clinics of the country will operate as vaccination posts, with the exception of Formosa where the campaign will take place once the flood problems are overcome.

Municipal Campaign

For its part, according to the order of the secretariat of Public Health of the municipality the antim measles vaccination campaign will begin the day after

tomorrow as part of the program coordinated by the state secretariat of that sector. The municipal campaign will run until 6 July, and it is mandatory that children between 9 months and 3 years of age, who have not been vaccinated against this disease or have not had it, be vaccinated. In all hospitals of this jurisdiction, 8 to 20 million children will be vaccinated, with the cooperation of parastate, private, and social works hospitals.

11635

CSO: 5400

ARGENTINA

BRIEFS

SCARLET FEVER DOWN--According to information released regarding the appearance of new cases of scarlet fever which do not constitute an outbreak of an epidemic and for which no emergency measures have been taken, the Buenos Aires municipality has repeated that this is a common illness at this time of the year and that it is usually benign in our environment. As confirmation of the above, during the first week of June 14 cases were detected in this city as compared with 33 cases registered when the municipality reported the appearance of the disease. However, municipal health authorities have recommended that parents consult a physician at the appearance of the first symptoms. These are characterized by a sudden appearance of fever and sometimes vomiting, sore throat, inflammation, coated tongue and skin eruptions spread on the neck, torso and their folds and internal surfaces. Finally, during convalescence there is scaling of the skin. [Text] [Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 23 Jun 79 p 5] 11635

CSO: 5400

AUSTRALIA

PROPOSED HOSPITAL CUTS AFFECT THOUSANDS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 23 Jun 79 p 5

[By Shaun McIlraith, Medical Correspondent]

[Text]

Details of thousands of NSW hospital beds and jobs under threat from proposed Federal economies have been given by the NSW Minister for Health, Mr Stewart.

Mr Stewart presented the list to State Cabinet and to a special seminar for the Parliamentary Caucus at Rozelle Hospital this week in a further round of his campaign to get the Federal Government to change its position.

A decision on the proposed economies is expected to be given by the Federal Minister for Health, Mr Hunt, at a meeting with State Health Ministers in Brisbane next week.

He will relay Federal Cabinet's verdict on their objections to proposals to slash hospital cost-sharing budgets, impose a no-growth policy on hospitals and require States to reduce their bed occupancy provision to 1,100 bed days in a year for each 1,000 of population. The present NSW figure is 1,434 per 1,000.

The planned cut of \$63 million in cost-sharing funds for NSW actually means a reduction of \$156 million when the effects

of inflation, increased wages, no-growth and reduced bed occupancy are taken into account, according to Mr Stewart.

While he has made no decisions on beds or jobs, he estimates that the Commonwealth stringencies imply the closing of 9,733 of the State's 27,171 public hospital beds.

This would result in the loss of 12,882 hospital jobs.

In the inner, southern and northern Sydney areas, where the major teaching hospitals are clustered, 3,881 beds would be closed with the loss of 5,686 jobs and a saving of \$74.35 million.

Of the closed beds, 1,012 would be put to alternative use, such as nursing home or community health purposes. Alternative jobs would be found for 1,387 of the affected staff.

Whole hospitals, such as Calvary, Margaret Reid, Chatswood Community, and Mosman District, would be closed completely.

Others, such as St Luke's, St Margaret's, Waverley War Memorial and Greenwich, would be converted to alternative uses.

In the western area the 314-bed Parramatta Hospital would be closed.

POSSIBLE BED CUTS

	Bed cuts	Total beds	Staff cuts	Sen saving
INNER SYDNEY:				
Royal Prince Alfred Hospital .	319	(1,269)	478	6.7
Sydney Hospital	262	(443)	540	6.5
St Vincent's Hospital and Balmain House	199	(649)	298	4.0
Lewisham Hospital	165	(265)	247	2.0
Women's Hospital, Crown St .	150	(272)	200	1.9
St Margaret's Hospital	148	(148)	327	5.0
St Luke's Hospital	142	(142)	236	4.0
Balmain Hospital	118	(218)	177	1.5
Eversleigh Hospital	101	(101)	116	1.3
Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children	100	(588)	100	1.0
Marrickville Hospital	65	(105)	93	1.3
Rachel Forster Hospital . . .	51	(131)	56	0.7
Canterbury Hospital	50	(220)	75	1.2
Sydney Homeopathic Hospital .	27	(27)	29	0.6
SOUTHERN SYDNEY:				
Prince Henry Group	333	(1,359)	484	5.8
Waverley War Memorial	160	(140)	232	3.3
Calvary Hospital	100	(100)	102	1.7
Royal Hospital For Women .	66	(226)	99	0.9
St George Hospital	58	(540)	75	1.0
Tresillian Hospital	26	(56)	35	.25
Langton Clinic	28	(58)	15	0.1
Karitane	16	(31)	17	0.1
NORTHERN SYDNEY:				
Royal North Shore Hospital	270	(895)	465	6.1
Greenwich Hospital	105	(105)	133	2.1
Mater Hospital	100	(266)	150	1.5
Narragah Hospital	99	(89)	124	1.8
Royal Ryde Hospital	87	(157)	130	0.5
Margaret Reid Hospital	85	(85)	85	1.8
Hornsby Hospital	80	(416)	120	1.3
Mossman District	80	(80)	75	1.4
Ryde District	72	(222)	110	1.2
Gosford, Woy Woy	63	(63)	95	1.5
Princess Juliana	58	(58)	58	1.1
Manly Hospital	58	(248)	75	0.7
Chatswood Community Hos.	47	(47)	59	0.9
Lourdes Hospital	21	(21)	85	0.3
WESTERN SYDNEY:				
Parramatta Hospital	314	(314)	832	12.0
Lidcombe Hospital	134	(400)	204	1.5
Blue Mountains Hospital . . .	60	(140)	90	0.5
Auburn Hospital	60	(307)	90	0.8
Bankstown Hospital	60	(349)	90	0.8
Blacktown Hospital	58	(349)	82	0.8

SCHISTOSOMIASIS CONTROL PROGRAM CRITICIZED IN REPORT TO WHO

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 Jul 79 p 28

[Text] Belo Horizonte--The Special Program for the Control of Schistosomiasis (PECE) drafted by the Ministry of Health in 1975 and approved by the Social Development Council is being harshly criticized by Brazilian researchers in the sector, according to a report submitted to the World Health Organization (WHO) by expert Naftale Katz, of the Rene Rachou Research Center at the Osvaldo Cruz Foundation, in Belo Horizonte.

A total allocation of 2.55 billion cruzeiros was made for the program but according to the researchers' criticism, the resources for the diagnosis and treatment of schistosomiasis, as well as for the extermination of periwinkles, was more than double that allocated for preventive sanitation, thus attacking the results rather than the causes of the disease.

Naftale Katz, on the basis of a special report presented by the PECE at the Sixth National Health Conference in 1977, stated that the sanitation campaign will affect only 2.6 million of the people in the northeast, less than 10 percent of the population in that region. Meanwhile, treatment with Examniquine, the main drug used in combating schistosomiasis, will be given to 12 million persons in Alagoas, Sergipe, Pernambuco, Paraiba, Rio Grande do Norte, Ceara and Maranhao, since a year after it was approved, the PECE, which was to have covered the entire country, was limited to these seven states alone.

In the work submitted to the WHO, entitled "Experiments With Chemotherapy on a Large Scale in Controlling Schistosomiasis in Brazil," this researcher at the Rene Rachou center stressed that the experience of Brazilian experts and that confirmed in one of the PECE programs, Project Touro, confirm the fact that treatment with drugs is not enough to control the spread of schistosomiasis in endemic areas with medium and high indexes for the disease.

"Thus the priority given chemotherapy is not proper," Naftale Katz stated, further referring to the fact that to date more than 1.5 million persons have been treated in the special program, while less than 20 percent of the planned sanitation measures have been carried out.

Naftale noted that a commission of experts invited by the National Scientific and Thermological Development Council concluded at a meeting held in Recife last year that there should be clear rules for the use of drugs as a means of controlling schistosomiasis: they should be given to persons infected living outside endemic areas, and infected persons moving from endemic areas to others where the disease is not spreading but where there are periwinkles subject to contamination, and thus the possibility of the development of new centers of the disease, with treatment on a broad scale in endemic areas, but after prior basic sanitation. In addition to this, the researcher explained, chemotherapeutic treatment could be tested on young people between 5 and 20 years of age, in zones with a high and average index of endemic disease "in an effort to prevent serious forms." Drugs, and in particular Examniquine, with which there is less risk and fewer counter-indications than for Hycanthone, are also important to reduce lesions on the liver and spleen, according to Naftale Katz. However, he stressed, "in endemic areas, the good results obtained immediately after treatment are not maintained with the passage of time."

In studies he himself has done, the researcher mentioned the case of Baldim, a small city in the interior of Minas Gerais, where after three years of treatment, more than 50 percent of the population is infected with schistosomiasis again, and the case of Belo Horizonte, where there is a high index of reinfection in patients in the slums on the periphery, also following treatment with specific remedies for the disease.

According to Naftale Katz, this proves that "the problem of this parasitic disease cannot be resolved without taking into account improvement in the living conditions in the environs of the large Brazilian cities, which may be even worse than those in the small towns or the rural environment."

Another very serious indicator that treatment alone is insufficient and that the lack of basic sanitation and better living conditions permit center of the disease to continue to exist is seen in the transfer of the parasite from the endemic areas to Sao Paulo thanks to domestic migration.

Currently, this researcher observed, more than a million migrants from the Northeast, about 25 percent of them suffering from schistosomiasis, live in Sao Paulo. As the strategy for combating the disease too is also based on chemotherapeutic treatment, which has been provided in 8 years to only 100,000 persons, the researcher asks how this disease, in the proportions it has taken on in Sao Paulo, can be controlled. And he states that the disease can only be controlled in underdeveloped countries "when it is included within general health services."

"The presence of schistosomiasis is an indicator of poor socio-economic conditions and this approach should be present in the minds of all experts involved in the work of controlling this endemic disease. This parasitic ailment is above all a result, and not a cause, of this situation."

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PROBLEM OF CHAGAS' DISEASE IN COUNTRY DISCUSSED

Study Soon To Be Completed

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 17 Jul 79 p 13

[Text] Brasilia--The exact number of carriers of Chagas' disease in the country--estimated at between 8 and 10 million--will be known by the end of the year, when the Ministry of Health has completed the first serological survey of the disease on a national scale, to determine the incidence of the disease and to establish how greater resources can be focused on the states where it is most endemic. Next month, the SUCAM [Superintendency for Public Health Campaigns] will complete the collection of 1.6 million blood samples required, sending them to Professor Mario Carmargo, of the University of Sao Paulo, who is responsible for processing the tests.

With the results in hand, the ministry will launch another electrocardiographic study to establish how many patients have suffered heart lesions caused by the bite of an infected barber bug. Surgically, the only method which exists for the treatment of these specific cardiopathic patients is a pacemaker, but few persons have undergone this operation, since the apparatus costs about 30,000 cruzeiros and needs to be replaced every 4 or 5 years, and Chagas' disease is typical of the poorest strata of the population.

In 1976 the SUCAM began the collecting and testing of blood samples throughout the country, using 16 laboratories run by various institutions, including universities, and selecting the USP [University of Sao Paulo] as the reference center for the others. This institution has responsibility for the computation of the data, since the standardized antigen used in the serological examinations and the training of specialized technicians has taken place there.

With the exception of Sao Paulo, where the survey is being made by the secretariat of health, the SUCAM plans to complete the 150,000 blood samples still needed in the states of Ceara, Paraiba, Pernambuco, Alagoas and the Territory of Rondonia, by the month of August. Laboratory studies using the traditional Machado Guerreiro method have been replaced by immuno-fluorescence studies, which are more practical and are thus recommended nowadays.

The SUCAM technicians estimate that 4.5 percent of the barber bugs in Brazil, where there are more than 40 species, are infected with Chagas' disease. Of these species, six are of special importance in transmitting this disease, particularly the *Triatoma infestans*, which predominates in the southern part of the country.

Although Brazilian scientist Carlos Chagas discovered the *Trypanosoma cruzi*, the parasite which causes Chagas' disease, transmitted by the barber bug, 70 years ago, the government is only now completing a serological survey to establish how prevalent the disease is and, on this basis, to establish priorities for waging the battle against it, since prevention has been unknown to date. According to the partial studies already completed, the Ministry of Health has established the following profile for Chagas' disease in the country: of all the states, only two are free of the disease--Santa Catarina and Amazonia. With the exception of the coastal region, Chagas' disease is found throughout the Northeast, in more than half of the municipalities of Rio Grande do Sul, in the southern part of Goias and Minas Gerais, and the northern part of Parana.

In these 7 decades, no researcher has found a vaccine effective against the disease, and of all the various drugs tested in the treatment of carriers of Chagas' disease, only two are in the experimental stage: Benzonidazol or Rochagan, produced by the Roche Laboratories, and Lomid, produced by Bayer, both of which act in the blood stream and prevent the circulation of the parasite.

Although the efficiency and usefulness of these medicines is debatable, the INANTS purchased 2,000 cases of Lomid in 1978 and distributed it at its stations, although aware that the use of a new drug for the mass treatment of patients is counter-indicated.

The desirability, or lack of it, of specific treatment with Lomid will require a long-term study of patients treated experimentally, Professor Aluizio Prata, coordinator at the Tropical Medicine Center at the University of Brasilia states, adding that this has not yet been done in any country researching this medication.

Apart from the fact that the treatment lasts a minimum of 60 days and the patients' condition followed for yet another year, both drugs have serious side effects--insomnia, dizziness, chronic headache, fever, digestive difficulty, psychic changes, tachycardia, skin eruptions and peripheral neuritis, among others, making them unworkable in terms of public health, according to Ministry of Health technicians.

About three Brazilian citizens are infected with Chagas' disease by means of blood transfusions every day. This could be prevented if the government were to establish a chemotherapeutic policy which would prohibit the indiscriminate sale of the product and make prior examination to detect the disease obligatory at the hundreds of blood banks, official and otherwise, which exist in the country.

Incidence in Federal District

Brasilia CORREIO BRAZILIENSE in Portuguese 11 Jul 79 p 15

[Text] There is a very large number of patients carrying Chagas' disease in the hospitals in the Federal District, the secretary of health, Jofran Frejat revealed yesterday, stressing that the majority of the patients suffering from Chagas' disease come from the outlying geoeconomic region and not from Brasilia itself or the satellite towns. He does not believe that the disease could be endemic in this area.

Because this is the center to which many patients come from the rural zones not only of Goias, but also Minas Gerais, Sao Paulo, Mato Grosso, Piaui, and even Paraiba, the Federal District inevitably has a "very large" percentage of patients suffering from Chagas' disease, the secretary said. However, he pointed out that there is no statistical assessment of the number of patients in all, but only those who seek hospital care and are treated there.

Barber bugs, which carry Chagas' disease, have been found in the Federal District by the health authorities, but they are not infected with the disease and as a result cannot pass it on. Secretary Frejat believes however that the disease is probably transmitted in blood transfusions.

Meningitis

Concerning the cases of meningitis reported in hospitals in Brasilia, the secretary reassured the population with the statement that there is no indication of an outbreak of the disease which, "like any other, is endemic."

"In 1974 there really was an outbreak, but since then the coefficient has been dropping gradually," and he believes that the decline in the number of cases is due to the work the secretariat has done in the community, which today has better access to hospitals.

The cold season, which encourages an increase in the number of meningitis cases, has not been a cause of excessive concern to the secretary to date, although he admits that "if an outbreak should occur, vaccination, which is the responsibility of the Ministry of Health, would be necessary."

5157

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

MENINGITIS OUTBREAK--Teresina--A team from the epidemiological vigilance sector at the state secretariat of health is presently in the municipality of Campo Maior (84 kilometers to the north of the capital) to assess the extent of the outbreak of meningitis which has taken two lives and affected a number of other persons in a period of a few days. The acting secretary of health, Mario Carmelo, who is a member of the team, has reported that "When meningitis, which is mainly affecting the municipal seat, is identified, all the steps necessary to control the disease will be taken." [Text] [Brasilia CORREIO BRAZILIENSE in Portuguese 11 Jul 79 p 8] 5157

TUBERCULOSIS TREATMENT--Brasilia--The time required for treating tuberculosis will be reduced from 12 to 6 months beginning next year, thanks to the use of rifampin and isoniazid together with the drug pyrazinamide. The new medication, which is being produced by the Central Enterprise for Medicine (CEME) was tested on 350 patients and revealed side effects which were deemed "negligible." This report comes from the Tuberculosis Control Division, a Ministry of Health body. It explains that after 20 days of using the new medicine, the test results for almost all patients became negative. [Text] [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 7 Jul 79 p 6] 5157

CSO: 5400

INDIA

BRIEFS

ENCEPHALITIS OUTBREAK--New Delhi, 1 Aug (AFP)--Twenty-four people have died of an epidemic of encephalitis in Basti District of Uttar Pradesh State neighboring Delhi, during the past one month, it was reported today. The disease reappeared early this year, after a lapse of some 4 months, and had now affected several other districts, besides the worst-hit Basti, in the eastern part of the state. The reports said in all the disease had claimed 50 lives after its re-emergence. [Text] [Hong Kong AFP in English 1625 GMT 1 Aug 79 BK]

CSO: 5400

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES DOWN IN EAST JAVA DURING SECOND FIVE-YEAR PLAN

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 5 Jun 79 pp 8, 9

Text The incidence of contagious diseases in East Java decreased during the Second Five-Year Plan. However, little change was recorded for tetanus, diphtheria, measles and venereal diseases. These diseases still occur in certain areas and even increase in certain situations, although still under control.

This point was divulged by Dr Sudarmadi SKM, head of the Regional Directorate for the Prevention of Contagious Diseases, East Java Public Health Service, in an interview with our reporter.

Yaws, Malaria and Cholera

He said, for instance, that sufferers of the contagious yaws disease decreased in number. During the first year of the Second Five-Year Plan, 39 cases were found, but the figure dropped to 4 in the fifth year.

Malaria sufferers also dropped considerably, from the annual parasitic index of 3.2 per 1000 during 1974-75 to 0.49 per 1000 for the 1978-79 period. During the latter period, 64.4 percent of the cases were caused by plasmodium vivax, 34.3 percent by plasmodium falciparum, while the remaining 1.3 percent was due to mixed infections.

Cholera afflicted practically all areas in East Java, with sufferers totalling between 1,600 and 4,200 people in a year. The mortality rate as a result of this disease dropped from 3.02 percent during the first year to 0.75 percent during the last year of the Second Five-Year Plan.

For dengue fever, with bleeding, the incidence fluctuated erratically. In a year, dengue sufferers could vary from between 200 and 1,000 people, with the mortality rate decreasing gradually. In 1974-75, the mortality rate was 10.1 percent, and it became 7.9 percent in 1978-79. Twelve to 17 counties in East Java were hit by dengue fever in a year, and this disease originated in the city of Surabaya in 1973.

Sudarmadi stated that since the First Five-Year Plan up till now no smallpox and rabies have been reported in East Java. From 1972 onward, smallpox cases were rarely found, and in 1974 the entire region was declared free of smallpox. As to rabies, the last case discovered in East Java was in the city of Surabaya in 1969.

In East Java, medical check-ups were held annually for 10,000 to 30,000 people suspected of pulmonary tuberculosis, and 1,000 to 3,000 of them were found positively to be suffering from this disease. They were subsequently given medical treatment at the Public Health Center.

Among the existing 546 public health centers, 60 were engaged primarily in the eradication of tuberculosis, for which they received financial subsidies from the central government. The other public health centers also handled TBC cases, although outside of their work program.

During the Second Five-Year Plan, 30,775 leprosy cases were found, of which 35.5 percent were contagious. Of the total number, 19,623 sufferers underwent medical treatment regularly, while the remainder refused to return to have further medical check-ups.

9300
CSO: 5400

CHOLERA REMAINS A 'VICIOUS' DISEASE IN EAST KALIMANTAN

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 11 Jun 79 p 6

Excerpts Cholera is still one of the vicious contagious diseases and is causing many casualties in East Kalimantan. During the past Second Five-Year Plan 2,354 cholera cases were recorded in East Kalimantan, which resulted in the death of 112 persons.

Tetanus also caused a high mortality rate, according to data compiled by the Kalimantan region of the Department of Health. Among all tetanus sufferers in 1977, 53 percent lost their lives. But the figure dropped somewhat in 1978.

Elephantiasis cases were prevalent among the inhabitants of Kutai and Pasir residencies in East Kalimantan. It is estimated that 6,000 people are now suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis.

With regard to elephantiasis in East Kalimantan, a survey held in three counties involving 7,332 persons in 1975 showed that 4.54 percent were positively suffering from the disease. In 1978, a survey of 4,185 inhabitants in two counties showed that 5.82 percent (1.01 percent-10.90 percent) were afflicted with elephantiasis.

Concerning dengue fever, with bleeding, the data said that a number of inspectors were dispatched in 1976 and 1977 and they confirmed the existence of this disease. However, dengue fever did not develop into an epidemic in East Kalimantan.

It is hoped that during the first year of this current Third Five-Year Plan, all district capitals in East Kalimantan will have a public health center, except long Apari in the county of Kutai. At present, 50 public health centers are found in 47 districts. Altogether 111 public health centers would be needed to cover all district capitals in East Kalimantan.

9300
CSO: 5400

POLIO VIRUSES FOUND IN WELLS, NO SICKNESSES REPORTED

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Jul 79 p 2

[Text]

Polio viruses have been discovered in several wells in Emek Hefer and the Health Ministry has had several wells closed, a ministry spokesman said yesterday. But he added that almost no cases of the illness have been reported.

The spokesman said that wells in Kfar Haroe, Moshav Eliashiv, Givat Haim (Ihud and Meuhad), Hivat Zion, and Kfar Vitkin, were all closed. A well in Bat Yam is also suspect and has been closed, the spokesman said.

The chief epidemiologist for the ministry said that a limited outbreak of the viral paralysis has occurred

this year in a number of communities.

But the epidemiologist said that in recent years the immunization programmes here have made Israel one of the best protected countries in the world against the disease, which strikes mainly at infants and small children.

The ministry spokesman said the current outbreak is most evident in rural Arab villages near Acre. But the spokesman said that in none of the areas where the polio viruses have been discovered in wells have any cases of the disease been reported. (Rm)

CSO: 5400

JAPAN

BRIEFS

CHOLERA GERMS IN SAGAMI RIVER--Yokohama, Aug 4, KYODO--El Tor-inaba-type cholera germs have again been detected in the Sagami River in Kanagawa Prefecture, Kanagawa health officials announced Saturday. The announcement came in the wake of tests conducted by the prefectural health department with samples of water from the river which was found to contain cholera germs in late July. The germs were detected in water at two points along the river within the range of about 8 kilometers between the Samukawa Filtration Plant and the Sagami Big Bridge further upstream. The water for testing was collected Wednesday. There were fewer germs in the water than in the previous test in late July, the officials said. The health department staff began an investigation of ditches around the Sagami Big Bridge together with health center officials Saturday afternoon on the assumption that the contaminated points must be around the bridge. The prefectural government prohibited swimming in the river and its branches on July 31. The ban was lifted Saturday, however, upstream from the bridge, where germs were not detected. Chlorination of running water at twice the usual density will be continued. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English no time given 4 Aug 79 OW]

CSO: 5400

LAOS

BRIEFS

SAYABOURY MALARIA OUTBREAK--Medical cadres at [Meuang] Sianghon District Hospital, Sayaboury Province during the first third of 1979 stet 1,592 patients, giving shots or drugs to 5,205 sick persons. Among them, some 95 percent are those suffering from acute malaria. Other than in-hospital treatment, they conducted 45 sorties of mobile medical units to treat people along the production base area, and trained 18 health combatants. [Text] [Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 12 Jun 79 p A 3] 9438

NASAITHONG ANTI-MALARIA WORK--Since 17 May 1979 Nasaithong the [Meuang] District Public Health Committee of Vientiane Province established mobile medical units to provide vaccinations to the population in various cantons within its area of jurisdiction aiming at guaranteeing the production force to actively seize the victory in the coming growing season. In this movement, they gave vaccine shots, sprayed DDT for malaria eradication and taught the "three clean" health principle. [Excerpt] [Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 23 May 79 p 1] 9438

CSO: 5400

POLIO ERADICATION PROGRAM TO BE LAUNCHED

Blantyre MALAWI NEWS in English 27 May 79 p 1

[Text]

CHIKWAWA

THE London based Save the Children Fund (SCF) is to fund a five-year poliomyelitis eradication programme in Malawi, a senior official of the SCF said here.

Similar programmes will be launched in Lesotho and Swaziland.

Dr. Nicholas Ward is in the country to make a preparatory survey on the incidence of polio in Malawi and to find out how best the programme could be implemented in conjunction with the Malawi National Council for the Handicapped.

For survey purposes four districts have been chosen purely on a scientific random

system rather than on the incidence of the disease. They are: Blantyre, Zomba, Chikwawa and Lilongwe.

Dr. Ward stated that through consecutive house to house visits in urban centres and villages in selected districts, it was hoped that a total of 18,000 children aged up to 15 years who looked victims of the disease would be seen in the order of 1,000 children at each rural centre and 2,000 children at each urban centre.

Dr. Ward explained that one aspect in the programme was to ensure that there were three doses of polio vaccine for every child within the one year age group.

It was expected to make av-

ailable to Malawi 2,000,000 doses of poliomyelitis vaccine in the first year of the five year programme, Dr. Ward explained. He added that his survey included looking into the prospects of storage facilities for the vaccine.

He said the current survey was a follow up to the visit he made to Malawi in January this year to discuss the project.

He disclosed that he had been prompted by the fact that the world had got rid of small pox and it was felt that the same could also be done with poliomyelitis. — MANA

CSO: 5400

MEASLES VACCINATION TO BE THROUGHOUT COUNTRY

Blantyre DAILY TIMES in English 16 May 79 p 10

[Text]

MZIMBA
Tuesday

A Measles vaccination campaign has been launched in Mzimba District to inoculate children in the age group between 6-23 months in a bid to avoid mortality among babies.

The leader of the 52 man vaccination team from the Ministry of Health Headquarters in Lilongwe said the target was to immunise at least 80 percent of the children in the district.

He said children in the age group 6-23 months were the most vulnerable to the disease. The Government has launched the national measles vaccination campaign to prevent the disease, he added.

"In the past, children have been receiving vaccines at under-fives' clinics," he said, "but measles vaccines were not provided because they were expensive and delicate to handle."

"Now that we have all facilities, we feel that it is more effective to carry out the vaccination exercise right in the villages," he said.

The team leader called for maximum co-operation between the public and the vaccination team in order to make the campaign a successful operation. However, the leader expressed

satisfaction at the response the vaccination team has received so far since the campaign was launched on May 9.

The immunisation team will be in Mzimba District until the whole area is covered. From Mzimba, the team will move on to Rumphi, then to Chitipa in the Region and other districts in the country.

So far Thyolo, Blantyre and Lilongwe Districts have already been covered by the measles vaccination campaign.

The Malawi Government launched the three-year nationwide measles immunisation programme in September last year as part of the expanded programme of immunisation.

The Government initially organised a two-week training course for 40 vaccinators in the use of vaccines, handling of injections, sterilisation procedures and communication with the people.

The programme is being sponsored by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and two officials from the organisation are based in the country assisting and advising in the campaign.

The United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) provided K76,000 for vehicles and other equipment such as syringes, camping tents, beds and deep freezers. — MANA

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

WAR SPREADS DISEASES--Que Que--The continuing war situation is adding an increasing burden on Que Que's Municipal Health Department, says Mrs R Nicholls, the town's Medical Officer of Health. In her annual report she says that an influx of people from rural areas had caused an increase in infectious diseases, particularly measles, despite an immunisation campaign. Scabies had become rife in local government areas as a result of overcrowding and lack of hygiene and more cases of malnutrition and venereal diseases were occurring. [Text] [Salisbury THE HERALD in English 4 Aug 79 p 9]

CSO: 5400

SOUTH AFRICA

BRIEFS

LEPROSY DOWN--Leprosy has steadily declined in South Africa in recent years. In the past 30 years the number of new cases has dropped from 8 000 a year to fewer than 200, reports the SUNDAY TIMES. A graph kept by Dr Susanne Kok at Westfort Institution, which is South Africa's only leprosy hospital, shows how it has declined from seven cases per 100 000 people in 1935 to fewer than one in the last few years. But the rest of Africa, along with countries in South America and Asia is not as fortunate. The official estimate is 15-million sufferers but it could be as high as 25-million as there are no official figures for China and other communist countries. [Text] [Pretoria SOUTH AFRICA DIGEST in English 27 Jul 79 p 20]

CSO: 5400

BREAKDOWN IN MEDICAL SERVICES INCREASES DEATH RATE

Blantyre DAILY TIMES in English 7 Jun 79 p 11

[Text]

KAMPALA
Wednesday

HUNDREDS of people are dying of cholera, sleeping sickness and tetanus in Uganda because of the rundown in health services under Idi Amin and the slow response of major aid agencies, a British aid expert has said.

Miss Janet Kenyon, who has been investigating Uganda's health services on behalf of the Crown Agents, the British supply agency, said there were virtually no drugs or other vital supplies in hospitals.

Many were suffering from lack of water supplies, drugs, dressings and other essentials and many had been looted after the downfall of dictator Idi Amin.

She referred to one hospital 40 miles from Kampala where surgeons had only one scalpel which they had to re-sharpen.

Uganda's Deputy Minister of Health, Peter Senabulya, said the

major international aid agencies had not responded fast enough to the collapse of the health services under Amin.

"We cannot force them to give us money or supplies," he said. "But I do not understand why they have been so slow to come to our aid, considering the seriousness of the situation."

Miss Kenyon, who has been in Uganda for three weeks, said Uganda's biggest hospital, the 600-bed Mulago Hospital, in Kampala, had an unreliable water supply, an ineffective sterilisation system and leaking sewer pipes.

Nurses were demoralised because they had almost no drugs, dressings instruments or laundry facilities.

"The major agencies have not responded to the immediate needs of Uganda," she said.
—Reuter

CSO: 5400

VIETNAM

BRIEFS

ANTI-MALARIA CAMPAIGN--During the first phase of the 1979 anti-malaria campaign in seven central provinces, including those in the highland region, the anti-malaria teams have sprayed nearly 440 tons of DDT in more than 1,000 villages and 89 new economic zones. They have also treated some 3,327 million people still affected by malaria. [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0400 GMT 23 Jul 79 BK]

CSO: 5400

ANGOLA

BRIEFS

CATTLE PNEUMONIA OUTBREAK--A total of 27 foci of contagious pneumonia in cattle herds were detected during last June by the Ministry of Agriculture services. The information for that month specifies that the foci were detected in the Moxico and Huila provinces, with the latter presenting the higher incidence. [Text] [Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 3 Aug 79 p 2]

CSO: 5400

SCIENTIFIC EFFORTS TO COMBAT FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 2 Jul 79 p 8

[Editorial: "Fight Against Foot-and-Mouth Disease"]

[Text] In the past 2 years a significant decrease in outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease in the country has been noticed, coinciding with a series of technical and administrative measures that have permitted improving the control mechanism for the disease and the quality of the vaccines. However, although the relatively smaller incidence of foot-and-mouth disease has been a constant factor since December 1977, those responsible for the campaign speak only of the sustained tendency toward control and do not risk--because of scientific responsibility and because they have experience in noticeable fluctuations that can occur during an outbreak--forecasting the possibility of controlling the disease as a step prior to its eradication.

The Health Promotion Service (SELSA) was able to reorganize its staff when the freezing of vacancies was abolished. It was able to improve the assignments of technical, paratechnical and administrative personnel and to provide local commissions with rented offices, placing special concern in associating producers with the campaign and making them into collaborators and not exclusively objects of inspection. The subdivision of provincial sections into microzones and the coordinated establishment of one day a week for vaccinations in designated places in each allowed a 500-percent improvement of vaccination control and at the same time encouraged the cattlemen to cooperate.

Concurrently with this administrative and organizational work, action was taken directly for vaccination, demanding for its approval a larger number of protective doses and therefore greater efficiency.

In the meantime, the study of new measures and even more effective vaccines continues. Experiments are being conducted with the vaccine called "oily" ("oleosa") that is being manufactured experimentally and according to procedures invented in the INTA [National Institute of Agricultural Technology] laboratories. This vaccine is supposed to be able to immunize for 6 months, which will permit the elimination of one of the three obligatory yearly

vaccinations, with the advantages that can be imagined. In addition, the Placefa plan has been initiated. It consists in intensifying the struggle in the zone located between parallel 38 to the north and the limit that goes from Buenos Aires Province and Barrancas and Colorado rivers to the south. It will be added to the so-called sporadic zone, whose southern border is parallel 42 and the free zone which extends to the southern extreme of the country.

In sum, the work is being conducted with responsibility and determination to control a disease that represents the main obstacle preventing our meat from having access to the main markets of the world. The struggle has already been going on for many years, in which experiences have been gathered by the present SELSA authorities who, although they received the necessary official support and the support of the producers, also have placed their ability and efforts at the service of a task of basic importance for agricultural and livestock economy. It is necessary to point this out because the results obtained serve as incentives and because it is useful that this be known, so that a clear idea may be had of what is being done in the country in this field.

11635
CSO: 5400

MOZAMBIQUE

DRIVE TO ISOLATE FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE OUTBREAKS

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 27 Jul 79 pp 1, 4

[Excerpt] Technical and material means are being intensively mobilized by animal husbandry authorities to combat new outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease which have been detected in some herds of cattle in the district of Magude, province of Maputo, and in the district of Massingir in Gaza.

These outbreaks were detected the middle of last week in the locality of Mapulanguene, an area affected by cyclical outbreaks of the disease, and in some herds in Massingir, a district which also includes some vulnerable zones. Slightly over a year ago, these areas had been included in the operations to combat small outbreaks registered in the middle of 1977 in some districts of the Maputo and Gaza provinces.

Measures Adopted

Following the detection of these outbreaks, a team of specialists from the department of animal husbandry sanitation of the Ministry of Agriculture traveled immediately to the affected areas where it adopted the necessary emergency measures aimed at their isolation.

Another team of technicians from the National Institute for Veterinary Research left day before yesterday for the locality of Mapulanguene in the district of Magude, from where it will proceed later for Massingir. The team will conduct a more detailed investigation and analysis aimed at defining the importance and the scope of these outbreaks.

On the other hand, the Institute for Veterinary Research is already working on the importation of foot-and-mouth vaccine from Kenya, to reinforce present stocks. According to informed sources, the amount of vaccine on hand is sufficient to control the present situation and additional quantities are being imported to prevent possible outbreaks or the spread of the existing ones to larger areas.

CSO: 5400

BRAZIL

ROT ATTACKS COCOA PLANTS IN BAHIA, ESPIRITO SANTO

Control Campaign Launched

Brasilia CORREIO BRAZILIENSE in Portuguese 8 Jul 79 p 8

[Excerpt] Between January and April of this year, the Executive Commission for the Cacao Production Plant (CEPLAC) distributed 53,228 sacks of copper-based pesticides for use in the battle against "brown rot," the worst of the ailments which plague the cacao tree.

Distribution was carried out through the 46 CEPLAC farm supply resale stations, using a stock of 147,202 sacks of pesticide and 180,000 additional liters of the adhesive required to prepare the fungicidal liquid which is applied to the cacao plantations in order to control the disease. The regional administration of the CEPLAC in Ilheus, Bahia, currently has a stock of 93,947 sacks of the fungicide on hand.

This year alone the CEPLAC purchased 2,700 tons of copper from the Sandoz chemical company, and has already distributed it to the cacao growers in Bahia and Espirito Santo and, along with the COPERCACAU, has distributed adequate quantities of BHC, fertilizers, tree killers and various machines, including 400 motorized pulverizers.

The CEPLAC technicians report that effective control of the ailment has yielded good results, mainly in the focal areas most susceptible to brown rot. At this season of the year, when the temperature is dropping in the southern part of Bahia and the northern part of Espirito Santo, the high humidity in the cacao plantations is favorable to a high incidence of the disease. However, the receptive attitude of the plantation owners to the technical guidance of the CEPLAC and the plan for distributing Sandoz copper by the resale offices in the interior has assured control of brown rot.

International Course

The Fourth International Cacao Course in Ilheus has been completed. It brought together 52 technicians from Brazil, Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia, the

Dominican Republic and Panama, engaged in farm research or rural extension work in cacao producing regions, together for a month. The gathering, sponsored by the CEPLAC, served to propagate modern knowledge about cacao cultivation and processing techniques. A seminar on the production of chocolate coordinated by Nestle and a friendship dinner concluded the course schedule.

Agrinomical engineer Ronaldo Alvim, an assistant at the scientific office of the CEPLAC, explained that among the subjects dealt with, those which provoked greatest interest had to do with the definitions of proper soil and climate for the crop, natural pollinization of cacao trees, and methods of establishing and renewing cacao plantings.

Five CEPLAC agronomers serving with the special department in Amazonia participated in the course. They were Tito Lys Batista de Souza, Carlos Chocron, Moises Moreira dos Santos, Simao Pedro Vasconcelos and Joao Eliel Dias Ferreira.

Apprenticeships

The participants attended theoretical classes, watched biological research, and visited the experimental fields of the Cacao Research Center and at producing plantations. The 2 weeks preceding 13 July were devoted mainly to foreign researchers and technicians interested in serving training apprenticeships in the sectors in which they specialize. This training program may be extended for 3 or 4 more weeks.

The theoretical part of the course included a total of 80 hours of class work and 60 hours of field demonstrations, biological consultations and informal discussions. The scientific director of the CEPLAC, Paulo de Tarso Alvim, served as director of the course.

Damage Reported

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Jul 79 p 26

[Text] The president of the Cacao Producers Advisory Council, Humberto Salomao Mafuz, announced yesterday in Itabuna, Bahia, that a heavy incidence of brown rot in the municipalities of Linhares and Sao Mateus, Espirito Santo, has destroyed more than 1.2 million cacao trees, and is beginning to spread to the extreme southern part of Bahia. Mafuz said that the disease has already been reported in the municipality of Belmonte, Bahia, where 30,000 cacao trees on a single plantation were killed, and it may extend to the municipalities of Itapebi and Canavieiras, in the same region.

Production Drop Feared

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 17 Jul 79 p 22

[Text] Salvador--The danger that brown rot, which has already killed 1.5 million cacao trees in Belmonte, Bahia, and Linhares and Sao Mateus, Espirito Santo, will spread to other municipalities will be the main subject discussed at a meeting which the Cacao Producers Advisory Council (CCPC) has scheduled for today in Itabuna, 429 kilometers from Salvador.

The serious nature of the incidence of brown rot, which in the past has only attacked the fruit, has alarmed producers and made them fearful that there will be a very definite decline in cacao production this year. The president of the CCPC, Humberto Salomao Mafuz, said yesterday.

Technicians from the Cacao Research Center have been meeting uninterruptedly in Itabuna in order to assess the areas affected and to try to find technical methods for combating the *phytophthora palmivora* fungus.

Detergent

The head of the extension department of the CEPLAC, agronomer Antonio Manoel Carvalho, believes that the disease will be controlled shortly, at least in Bahia. To this end, teams of technicians, vessels and vehicles were sent by the CEPLAC to the Belmonte region, 688 kilometers from the capital, to instruct the cacao growers.

Despite the fact that the cause of the death of the trees has not been properly clarified, since the fungus only affects the fruit, the CEPLAC has been recommending the application of a detergent, as well as a specific paste, to the tree trunks in the affected areas.

Everything points to the fact that the excessive humidity resulting from the rain which fell in January is the cause of the high incidence of brown rot, CEPLAC technicians say. Should the disease spread still further, the CEPLAC will establish phytosanitary barriers in the Belmonte region.

5157

CSO: 5400

COFFEE RUST: 25 MILLION PESOS TO FIGHT PLAGUE

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 27 Jun 79 p 9-A

[Article by Edison Parra]

[Text] Pasto, 26 June--Colombia will invest 25 million pesos in its fight to prevent coffee rust from attacking coffee plants around the country.

The disclosure was made here by officials of the National Federation of Coffee Growers [FEDECAFE], who asked for national solidarity in favor of this campaign, called the Narino challenge, against the terrible scourge.

The FEDECAFE spokesmen stressed the fact that if the coffee rust should penetrate national territory, the country would be faced with the necessity of investing 3.75 billion pesos in its eradication.

The officials added that in Colombia there are currently 1.2 million hectares growing coffee while also reporting that only 20 percent of those are mechanized. "The remaining 950,000 should be renovated," they said.

They also explained that the cultivated hectares are distributed among 300,000 plantations, from which more than 2 million Colombians make their living directly and another 2 million indirectly.

German Tabares, head of the company against the coffee rust, pointed out moreover that a mechanized coffee plantation produces more than 1,000 kilograms per hectare, because of which he justified the million-peso investment to prevent the rust.

The official noted that the antirust campaign will take place for the most part on the so-called "mechanized crops" and added: "On the so-called subsistence coffee plantations it is impossible to carry out any action in the fight against the scourge because, on account of their very low production, which is less than 1,000 kg or 6 loads per hectare, the control of the rust is extremely costly."

According to Tabares, Narino currently has an area of 20,182 hectares growing coffee of which only 5,056 hectares are mechanized and the rest are

"subsistence coffee," located on 12,661 plantations in 30 towns producing the bean, the harvest of which yields 202,563 60-kg sacks, for a value of approximately 600 million pesos.

In Narino other FEDECAFE spokesmen said that some 72,000 persons make their living from the production of the bean and at least 130,000 others do so indirectly.

11937
CSO: 5400

FEARS COFFEE RUST CARRIED BY COCAINE TRAFFICKERS

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 10 Jul 79 pp 1-A, 11-A

[Text] Pasto, 9 Jul—Technicians and professionals at the National Federation of Coffeegrowers (FEDECAFE) and the Colombian Agricultural Institute (ICA) did not rule out today the possibility that people involved in the drug traffic may also at some time carry coffee rust spores from Peru or Bolivia and introduce that disease into Colombia, thus ruining more than 9 years of efforts that have cost about 100 million pesos.

Coca and Coffee

Technicians and professionals from both FEDECAFE and the ICA who have traveled to the southern part of the continent--especially to Bolivia and Peru--told how coca crops in both of those countries are very close to the coffeegrowing areas. In many cases the plants from which cocaine is extracted are sown right in among the coffee trees.

As is known to everyone, there is a huge traffic in cocaine between Bolivia and Peru on the one hand and Colombia on the other. The traffickers often use secret routes in order to outmaneuver authorities of the two above-mentioned countries as well as of Colombia.

Contaminated Shipments

Spokesmen for both the National Federation of Coffeegrowers and the Colombian Agricultural Institute, which are participating in a big offensive in Narino to "exclude" coffee rust, did not rule out the possibility that shipments brought into Colombia by the so-called "mules" may be contaminated with the spores that spread the disease.

Neither did they rule out the possibility that many of the persons or "mules" in charge of transporting the drug from Bolivia or Peru may arrive with their clothing and baggage contaminated, since in most cases they visit the areas where the alkaloid is processed. As was said above, those areas are located in coffeegrowing zones of both countries where the presence of coffee rust has already been detected.

Extending the Campaign

Officials have been engaged in extensive action in Narino's rural areas for the purpose of educating and preparing coffeegrowers and the community in general in case coffee rust appears in that department. They stress the almost immediate urgency of extending the "exclusion campaign" to other areas of the country such as the Eastern Plains, Huila, and Leticia, which are not only necessary routes for the drug traffickers but also areas receiving the winds that blow in from Peru and Brazil.

They told how necessary it is, for example, to carry out in the Department of Huila a campaign similar to the one carried out to date in Narino. The reason is that because of the heavy traffic between Puerto Asis, Mocoa, and Pitalito, that route may provide an easy entrance for coffee rust.

Cost of a Campaign

For 10 consecutive years the National Federation of Coffeegrowers and the Colombian Agricultural Institute have been engaged in a broad campaign to educate people and control coffee rust throughout the country. They have sent technicians to become specialists on the subject to countries which have already been affected by the disease and whose economies, based on coffee, have suffered serious harm.

In the almost 10 years that the campaign has lasted, the effort to prevent the entry of coffee rust has cost almost 100 million pesos, for an average of 10 million pesos annually. If anyone, drug trafficker or not, were to bring coffee rust into Colombia, whether inadvertently or through thoughtlessness, it would mean the collapse of an extremely costly economic effort that has been made to keep the national territory free of the disease. Keeping the disease out has been the permanent objective of the National Federation of Coffeegrowers and the Colombian Agricultural Institute.

Many of the travelers who go by land from Colombia to the southern part of the continent--especially to Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, and Chile--for business, pleasure, or other reasons do not know what coffee rust is and are unaware of its grievous economic and social effects on a country such as ours, where coffee is the major source of foreign exchange.

A study by the Colombian Agricultural Institute reveals that the travelers entering and leaving Colombia at Ipiales on the Ecuadorean border are the ones least familiar with the disease in question.

Of the travelers arriving in our country from the south, 74.2 percent know nothing about coffee rust, while 48.5 percent of those leaving the country are in the same position.

That statistical circumstance causes the National Federation of Coffeegrowers and the Colombian Agricultural Institute to maintain in Ipiales not only an

educational campaign directed at the flow of travelers but also a program of special plant-health controls serving to keep out the coffee disease, which at some unfortunate moment for Colombia may be introduced either by a drug trafficker or by an innocent tourist.

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SUGARCANE DISEASES APPEAR FOR FIRST TIME

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 29 Jun 79 p 1-A, 11-A

[Unattributed article: "Rust and Smut Detected in Sugarcane Crops"]

[Text] The Colombian Agriculture and Livestock Institute (ICA) alerted sugarcane growers to the presence in Colombia, for the first time, of two serious plant diseases: Sugarcane rust and smut.

These diseases were detected in the area in between the towns of Cucuta, Villa del Rosario and El Zulia, which was immediately quarantined on proof of the existence of the two diseases, and the order was given to cut the cane varieties 43-62-Barbados and Canal Point-57-603 ready for harvest, to destroy the ratoons and the plants under 6 months old.

"In fact, at the end of April, in crops located in Cucuta, Villa del Rosario and El Zulia, the ICA detected, for the first time, the presence in the country of two new diseases that affect sugarcane: Rust (*Puccinia Melanocephala* fungus) and smut (*Ustilago-Sictaminea* fungus). This occurred for the first time at the end of April and for the second time around mid-May, when the affected crops were being examined and controlled. In regard to the smut, to date only two affected plants have been found, but the investigation and control have been intensified, because it is felt that the fungus is in the process of development. Two brigades from the institute are currently working on control of the two diseases," said Assistant Manager of Plant Production at ICA Fernando Villamizar Rosas.

On recognizing the presence of these two plant diseases, the ICA as the country's plant health authority, besides ordering a quarantine of the affected area (1,000 hectares), decided to prohibit any movement or transportation of plant material from Cucuta, Villa del Rosario and El Zulia toward the center of the country. Thus they are attempting to prevent its spreading to the cane zone next to the two Santanderes and reaching the sugar center of the Cauca Valley and Risaralda and other brown sugar regions in the country. Participating in the control of this prohibition since last May, in addition to the ICA health authorities, are the police, the army, DAS [Administrative Department of Security], the customs guards and other security bodies.

As soon as it was detected, this news was reported to CENICANA [Research Center for Refined and Brown Sugarcane] and ASOCANA [Colombian Sugar Growers' Association], and through ICA they were informed in depth about the danger this poses for the country's sugar industry. In turn, CENICANA with its team of experts and in cooperation with ICA, went to work by shipping a complete collection of the varieties grown in the sugar zone to the affected region, for the purpose of exposing them to the contagion to establish which varieties are resistant to the two diseases and which are susceptible, in order to eliminate their cultivation.

The brown sugarcane areas are protected from the rust to a certain extent because the variety grown in almost the entire country is POJ, which is very resistant to that fungus.

Yesterday ICA officially informed Minister of Agriculture in charge Luis Fernando Londono of the findings in a meeting also attended by the directors of CENICANA, ASOCANA and AGROZULIA. At this meeting the plant health officials from the institute informed the official and private sectors about the preventive campaigns already in motion as well as the damages caused by the fungi, which were shown with slides, and they explained the method of detecting rust and smut and controlling them by using copper fungicides for the former and other compounds for the latter.

ICA is preparing a pamphlet and a publicity campaign which will be carried out among the growers and the citizenry in general for the purpose of preventing the diseases in all sugarcane growing areas, since their propagation would pose a grave danger to the nation's main agroindustry: Sugar and brown sugar plantations.

The institute's plant health authorities stated that the two new diseases in the country--sugarcane rust and smut--possibly came in from Venezuela since that country has had them for years. These diseases are also found in the Caribbean.

Colombia currently grows between 450,000 and 470,000 hectares of cane, for sugar and for the manufacture of brown sugar. The main concentration of this growth is found in the Cuenca Valley and Risaralda.

Sugarcane rust is different from coffee rust, which is the fungus Hemilda-Vascatrix.

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BRIEFS

NGHIA BINH INSECT THREAT--Brown bugs and other harmful insects and diseases have appeared in Nghia Binh Province, threatening more than 70,000 hectares of summer-fall rice in An Nhon and Mo Duc districts and Quang Nghia City. These localities have promptly mobilized laborers and students to care for and protect riceplants against diseases and insects by cleaning and spraying the ricefields with insecticide. [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0900 GMT 16 Jul 79 BK]

HA TUYEN RICE PROTECTION--Along with transplanting rice on the remaining area, cooperatives in Ha Tuyen Province are intensively caring for and protecting some 7,500 hectares of early 10th-month rice against harmful insects and diseases. Thanks to the expansion of the vegetation protection network to grassroots production units, the province has been able to save nearly 1,200 hectares of rice from being affected by insects. [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 3 Aug 79 BK]

HAU GIANG INSECT DAMAGE--Thousands of hectares of summer-fall rice in Thot Not District, Hau Giang Province, have been affected by stem borers and leaf rollers. Faced with this situation, local production collectives and peasants have promptly mobilized all available means to prevent these insects from spreading further. [Ho Chi Minh City Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 16 Jul 79 BK]

TAY NINH INSECT ELIMINATION--Leaf hoppers and grasshoppers have recently destroyed more than 7,000 hectares of summer-fall rice in Tay Ninh Province. Faced with this situation, the province has promptly mobilized cadres and students to join the local peasants in spraying the ricefields with insecticides. As a result, tens of thousands of hectares of rice have been saved. Along with caring for and protecting the summer-fall rice, localities in the province are now making preparations to transplant 85,000 hectares of 10th-month rice with new rice strains. [Ho Chi Minh City Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 7 Aug 79 BK]

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